thetech.com



WEATHER, p. 2 THU: 37°F | 21°F FRI: 31°F 20°F Partly Cloudy SAT: 29°F | 18°F

Partly Cloudy

Thursday, February 2, 2017

TRUMP E.O. BLOCKS TWO FROM M

Rahmati, Atieh unable to return after going home

Volume 136, Number 40

By Katherine Nazemi EDITOR IN CHIEF

Two undergraduates are unable to return to campus after an executive order issued Jan. 27 by President Donald J. Trump barred nationals of seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the U.S.

Niki Mossafer Rahmati '18 and Fadi Atieh '20, from Iran and Syria, respectively, have been denied entry to the U.S. despite both having current, valid student visas.

Rahmati was not permitted to board a connecting flight in Doha, Qatar while traveling back to MIT from visiting her family in Iran; Atieh was attempting to check into his flight online when he received a pop-up stating: "admission refused to visitors with a passport issued by Syria."

The ban will hold for 90 days and applies to all nationals of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. The executive order also indefinitely bars Syrian refugees from entering the country, and suspends entry of all other refugees for 120 days.

According to MIT registrar enrollment statistics for graduate and undergraduate students, there are currently 38 MIT students from Iran, five from Syria, one from Iraq, two from Sudan, and one from Somalia. These students will be unable to leave the U.S. until the ban is lifted without running the risk of being barred from

On Feb. 29, the Massachusetts federal district court issued a temporary order preventing the government from detaining or removing those with a valid visa or green card traveling from the seven countries to the U.S. through Logan Airport. The order will be in effect until Feb. 5.

After being prevented from boarding her connecting flight, Rahmati returned to her home in Tehran. In a Facebook post Jan. 30, she said she

Ban, Page 2



Protesters gather in Copley Square this past Sunday to protest President Trump's recent executive order temporarily restricting immigration from some countries

Hundreds gather in Lobby 7

Students join thousands at Sunday's Copley protest

By Emma Bingham

STAFF REPORTER

Several hundred MIT community members met in Lobby 7 Sunday before participating in a larger protest in Copley Square against the ban on travelers from seven Muslim-majority countries.

An email from Provost Martin A. Schmidt, Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88, and Vice President for Research Maria Zuber encouraged the MIT community to attend the rally in Lobby 7 in order to "join in a show of support for MIT's values."

The Lobby 7 rally, which was coordinated by the MIT Democrats, featured poster-making supplies, voter registration materials, and snacks.

An email from faculty chair Krishna Rajagopal invited all faculty members to attend the rally. He shared his "deep concern" that travel for MIT affiliates had been "curtailed in a sharp and uncertain manner."

MIT Democrats co-president Caroline Mak '18 and Chancellor Barnhart both spoke briefly at the rally. Barnhart thanked everyone for coming and said that MIT plans to work hard to bring all affected students back to campus.

Chancellor Barnhart herself did not attend the protest in Copley; she said she stayed behind to keep in touch with the international students affected by the travel ban.

Around noon, people set out from Lobby 7 toward Copley Square, walking in a large clump across Harvard bridge.

Thousands of protesters from all around the Boston area packed the Copley Square plaza and the surrounding streets. "No hate, no fear, immigrants are welcome here!" they chanted.

Protest organizers and guests spoke from the steps of Trinity Church. These speakers included Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, CAIR Massachusetts executive director John Robbins, and Cambridge City Councilman and MIT alumnus Nadeem A. Mazen

Admins race to respond within court's window

By Katherine Nazemi EDITOR IN CHIEF

MIT President L. Rafael Reif called Friday's executive order on immigration "a stunning violation of our deepest American values."

In an email to campus, he said that the order, which temporarily prevents nationals of seven predominantly-Muslim countries from entering the United States, is contrary to principles of "fairness, equality, openness, generosity,

"If we accept this injustice, where will it end?" Reif wrote. "Which group will be singled out for suspicion tomorrow?'

Reif indicated that he would use MIT's position to push for change in areas where the Institute has most leverage.

"Institutionally, though we may not be vocal in every instance, you can be confident we are paying attention... we will speak and act when and where we judge we can be most effective."

Provost Marty A. Schmidt, Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88, and Vice President for Research Maria T. Zuber encouraged students to "join in a show of support for MIT's values" by attending a rally in Lobby 7 on Sunday.

Faculty Chair Krishna Rajagopal sent an email to MIT faculty inviting them to join the rally as well.

"It is with deep concern that I am, as many are, watching the news of President Trump's executive order preventing nationals of certain countries from entering the United States," he wrote to faculty.

Reif stressed the resources available to students in his email, directing them to the International Students Office and International Scholars Office.

He noted that administrators

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Reactions on campus *What students think about the exec order*

By Karleigh Moore

The Tech interviewed students and staff in Lobby 10 Wednesday afternoon to gauge campus reaction to President Donald J. Trump's executive order on immigration.

Some community members we spoke to were not familiar with the executive order, some knew of it through sources like Facebook, and others appeared to have done substantial research.

"I think we should coordinate some kind of protest with the administration and the students here to let people in the government know that MIT is not going to accept this," said Marcus Powell '19.

Of those who addressed pro-

tests, only one woman, a Sloan fellow, thought that protests would Trump enjoys the attention, even if negative.

Administrators apparently held with those who believe in the protests. Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88 addressed a crowd of MIT community members in Lobby 7 last Sunday as students geared up to attend a protest in Copley Square. She said she was proud of the students for showing compassion and organizing in behalf of other community members.

Tech reporters in attendance estimated that 200 MIT community members were gathered in Lobby 7.

Reaction, Page 3

Schmill: executive order will not change MIT's admissions process

2021, told CNN he is worried that President Donald J. Trump's executive order on immigration will prevent him from attending MIT this coming fall.

"It is hard to know what will happen," Stu Schmill '86, Head of Admissions, told The Tech in an email, "but I hope that we'll be able to enroll the most talented students from around the world just as we always have."

The executive order indefinitely bars refugees from Syria from entering the U.S, and it suspends all refugee entrance for 120 days. Furthermore, the or-

Mahmoud Hassan, a Syrian der bars people from Iran, Iraq, Yemen from entering the U.S. for

> While it remains unclear if students from these countries will be allowed unhindered entrance to the U.S., MIT does not plan to change its admissions process.

> "We will reassure prospective students that we do not plan to change our processes and that we plan to continue to admit the most talented students from all over the world, and will work hard to make sure they can come and study at MIT."

— Karleigh Moore

IN SHORT

The Tech Shuttle will change route beginning on Monday, Feb. 6. The Kendall Square, Amherst@Wadsworth, and Media Lab stops will be affected.

The last day of IAP is Friday,

Registration Day is Monday,

xFair will be on Monday Feb. 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Rockwell

Battlecode finals will be on Saturday Feb. 4, 7 p.m. in Kresge. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Send news and tips to news@ tech.mit.edu.

MAKE MIT HOME AGAIN

One perspective on the E.O. OPINION, p. 4

EXPERIMENTAL THEATER

One play, many endings. ARTS, p. 8

BYE. IAP

No PNR, no fun. FUN, p. 10



COPLEY PROTEST

Thousands attend. PHOTO,

5-STAR REVIEW

A mouthwatering read. ARTS, p. 8

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SECTIONS

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Colder weather ahead

By Costa Christopoulos

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The low pressure system which brought snow to the area earlier this week continues to move off to the northeast. Behind the system, colder air from central Canada will filter in, bringing drier conditions and mostly sunny skies to Boston. This weekend, a colder plume of Arctic air will swing through New England. As the air mass settles in, highs will sit around the freezing mark and lows should dip below 20°F (-7°C).

This month, NASA and NOAA released their first images from GOES-R, an advanced weather satellite launched last November. The instrument is

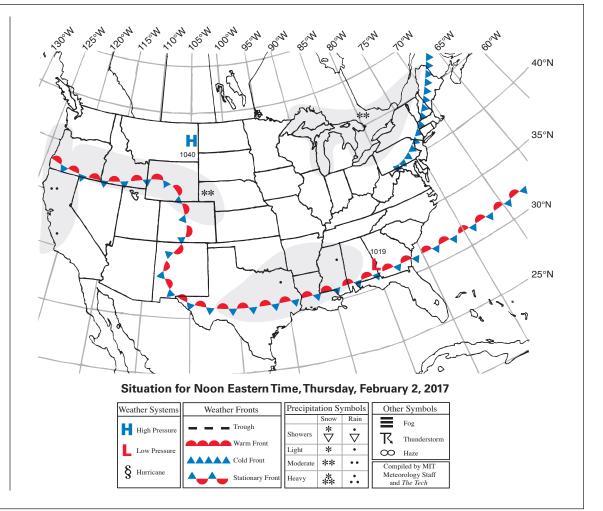
the first of a series of four satellites expected to revolutionize weather forecasting over the coming years. Orbiting 22,300 miles above Earth's surface, the satellite captures images over the continental US every 5 minutes. Relative to previous weather satellites, this represents a four-fold increase in spatial resolution and five-fold increase in temporal resolution. From severe weather and hurricanes to wildfires and volcanic eruptions, the new program will continue to provide a wealth of information for forecasters, researchers, and enthusiasts alike. Images are freely available to the public, and make for some spectacular desktop backgrounds.

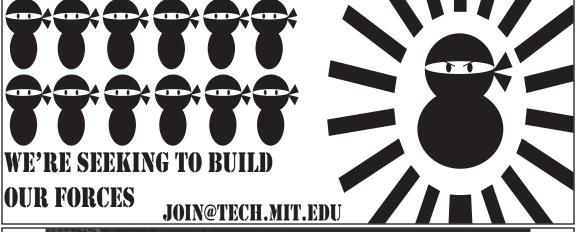
Extended Forecast

Today: Partly Cloudy. High 37°F (3°C). Winds west at around 10 mph

Tonight: Mostly Clear. Low 21°F (-6°C). Winds west at 5-8 mph. Tomorrow: Partly Cloudy. High 31°F (-1°C). Winds west at around 10 mph.

Saturday: Partly Cloudy. High 29°F (-2°C). **Sunday**: Mostly Cloudy. High 33°F (1°C).







47 may be affected

Future of exec order is uncertain

Ban, from Page 1

booked a second flight to Boston through Frankfurt, Germany.

"I wasn't even allowed to check in to my flight," she wrote. "They're currently not letting anyone get on flights to the U.S., unless they have a Green Card or an American passport. The [court order] has apparently only helped those who were stuck in transit... or [Customs and Border Protection] in the U.S."

Atieh had a flight booked for Jan. 30 to Boston, originating in Beirut, Lebanon. Despite the denial of online check-in, he planned to head to Beirut in the hope that he might be able to get on board anyway.

Atieh had been in contact with MIT's International Students Office, the Admissions Office, and immigration attorneys, from whom he obtained a copy of the court order.

"Everybody is working hard to bring things back to normal but it's going to take a little bit of time," he wrote Jan. 29 in an email to *The Tech*. "The community at MIT is really supporting and really solid."

At press time, *The Tech* had not heard whether Atieh had been allowed to board his flight.

MIT administrators have been racing to get students back to campus before the court goes out of effect Sunday.

"We are pursuing all avenues to return MIT community members to campus," Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88 wrote in an email to *The Tech* Feb. 2.

Barnhart said that MIT has

asked for assistance from the Massachusetts congressional delegation, that the Institute is engaged with federal customs and borders and homeland security agencies, and that affected students have been connected with legal and

travel resources.

"I wish with all my heart that that I could say with certainty that these efforts will be successful," Barnhart wrote. "In this moment though, I can't. I am certain that we will not give up, and that we will keep pushing for their safe return."

Barnhart declined to discuss the specifics of Rahmati and Atieh's situations, whether they were currently en route to MIT, or who at MIT was currently working with them. "I believe that we should let those individuals decide if and how they want to share their stories with the public," she wrote.

Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren took the Senate floor Jan. 30, asking senators to overturn the executive order. She showed a photograph of Rahmati and read aloud a portion of one of Rahmati's Facebook posts.

"This is who Donald Trump is trying to keep out of the country," Warren said incredulously after reading from the post.

Trump had previously called for a ban on Muslims entering the country.

"Donald J. Trump is calling for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on," his campaign said in a statement early in December 2015.



Thursday, February 2, 2017

MIT Dems and GOP adopt stances

Broad agreement on utility of protests, only one said otherwise

Reaction, from Page 1

Jonathan Spirnak, a grad student who is "more on the conservative side of things" said that the travel ban is a "tragedy" for the affected MIT community members. But he thinks that it's been "overplayed by the media," clouding what he feels to be the true message of the order, which is "looking out for the protection of the American citizens."

"I think the order was extremely poorly written and poorly designed. But I think the intent behind it is correct. I don't believe it is anything drastically different from what the Obama administration did," Spirnak said.

He was probably referring to the additional vetting step that President Barack Obama implemented for Iraqi immigrants in 2011, after a specific case in which Iraqi immigrants were found to have been part of an insurgent group, as The New York Times reported at the time. The additional vetting may have slowed down visa issuance for up to six months.

The ban represents "pure ignorance and complete lack of understanding and compassion of really what the ramifications are. And even if [Trump] knew the ramifications, I don't think he'd be at all concerned," an MIT staff member said.

"It's definitely put up some roadblocks. With the start of the new semester you kind of feel the anxieties ramped up a lot and I'm just a staff member and I can feel it too," a different MIT staff member said.

Madee Haworth '19, who grew

up as a Republican but now considers herself "more independent," calls the ban a "xenophobic, bigoted, and discriminatory measure."

"I understand that Trump and supporters of the ban probably think that it's in the best interests of the country, but I don't think it will keep us safe at all... In fact, I'm scared that the ban gives radical groups like ISIS the ability to recruit because they can say that the U.S. is 'at war with Islam," she wrote to *The Tech*.

Haworth, who attended the protest is Copley Square, believes the ban discriminates against individuals who "went through all the necessary legal channels to be vetted and get visas and green cards" based on their religion and national origin.

The Tech reached out to the MIT College Republicans and MIT Democrats.

"The MIT College Republicans club acknowledges that the United States has the prerogative and necessity to keep its citizens safe, up to and including closing its borders to countries that openly sponsor terrorist activities," the group told *The Tech* in an email.

Given the executive order, the MIT College Republicans believe that "all international citizens

Office of Minority Education

with valid visas, especially student visas, should be vetted and accordingly granted entry into this country with the utmost speed and diligence."

While some use terms like "Muslim ban" to describe the order, the MIT College Republicans believe it is "intended to be enacted without religious prejudice," and they expect it will be.

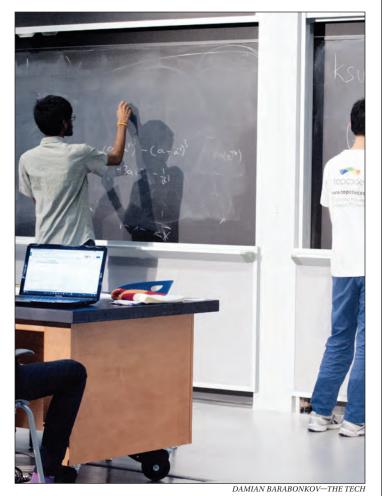
The College Republicans, like many of the other students we spoke with, indicated their hopes that the two MIT undergraduates currently barred from entering the country due to this order will be able to return soon.

The MIT Democrats say that many members were upset by the order

"It throws into question how [MIT] can claim to draw the best and brightest, when our own government rejects the potential of hundreds of millions of people out of hand based purely on where they were born," said the group in an email to *The Tech*.

"You can bet that when Trump issues his next outrageous executive order we'll be out there in the streets the next day, making our voices heard."

William Navarre and Katherine Nazemi contributed reporting.



Students put their integration abilities head to head in the annual Integration Bee as they competed for the title of Grand Integrator.

Institute stance is defiant

Faculty invited to join in Lobby 7 rally Sunday

Admin, from Page 1

have encountered setbacks as they attempt to work personally with each of the affected students.

"The difficulty we have encountered in seeking to help the individuals from our community heightens our overall sense of concern," he wrote.

In his email, Reif asserted MIT's ability as a research institute to draw talent from around the globe to contribute to science that benefits both the nation and the world.

"MIT is profoundly American... We embody the American passion for boldness, big ideas, hard work, and hands-on problem-solving," he wrote. "We are as American as the flag on the moon."

"At the same time, and without the slightest sense of contradiction, MIT is profoundly global," he wrote.

He noted that over 40 percent of faculty and graduate students, and 10 percent of undergraduates, are international, coming from 134 different countries. "The policies announced Friday tear at the very fabric of our society."

In an email to *The Tech*, Barnhart said the administration has set up a fund — the MIT Global Student and Scholar Support Fund — in response to the executive order. The fund will offer financial support to students, scholars, and staff affected by the executive order, Barnhart said.



Questions?

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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Thursdays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations) and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$50.00 per year (third class). POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. TELEPHONE: Editorial: (617) 258-8224. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2017 The Tech. Printed by Turley Publications, Inc.

Make our family whole again

We must fight efforts to normalize discrimination

By Matthew Davis

On Friday evening, President Donald Trump instituted a broad travel ban on visaholders, Green Card carriers, and general travelers from seven Muslim-majority countries in the Middle East. I saw the news while I was participating in the MISTI program in Jordan, and my thoughts immediately went to my Iraqi roommate, my Iranian classmates, and my Muslim friends. I was horrified to think that they may be stuck somewhere outside our country, unable to come back to our home at MIT. I thought of the group of Syrian refugees that I am teaching this month, all science and engineering students, and how it would be my responsibility to explain to them why someone believes they are a threat. I already imagined how the exchange would unfold: Why? Because you're Syrian, and those people you ran away from are now being used to target you elsewhere. Yeah, I know it's not fair. No, many of the people back home do not understand. Yes, unfortunately they do think of terrorism when they think of you. Yes, I understand that Syrian refugees in America have never committed an attack

How can someone suggest that because of where you were born, or how you pray, that you do not belong here with us?

The day before, I was with my MISTI partner Cyndia, eating dinner with one of our students, whom I will call "Ahmed" in this article. Ahmed is a Syrian refugee living in Jordan, just down the street from our apartment in Amman. We were having Syrian-style shawarma together, engagedin a lively debate about why Lord of the Rings was, truly, epic. Cyndia made a reference to Mean Girls, and we laughed hysterically about it. Ahmed, having never seen the film, did not understand. We told him he had to watch it, and being a devout lover of American cinema, he watched it that night. He texted me when he finished and said that he was excited to talk about it in the morning. The next day, Ahmed walked up to me, but instead of asking about the movie, he asked, "Why do people in America hate us? I heard about the executive order this morning, and saw these YouTube videos of Americans saying we were taking their jobs and burning the Quran. But I don't understand why."

You can attempt to explain how there was an economic downturn, and people lost their jobs, and how there was a "white backlash," and how liberals lost touch with the common American, and I actually did try. I drew diagrams on the board with my class explaining how the economic recovery was unbalanced, and how segments of the population lost faith in the mainstream media, all using economics and math. And it took me a good thirty minutes before I realized — what am I doing? This literally has nothing to do with the young Syrian students who are sitting in front of me. They did not cause Americans to lose jobs. They did not hurt anyone. They ran away from conflict to escape the fighting, not to go and bring it somewhere they wanted to do was learn, get a job and support a family. And I had to do everything I could to maintain my composure, because it suddenly hit me full force how completely misunderstood they are, and how tragic it is that innocent people are caught in such a colossal tidal wave of misinformation and ignorance. And I thought not only of them, but also of my classmates back at MIT — 38 Iranians, one Iraqi, five Syrians, two Sudanese, and one Somalian.

Isn't it crazy that someone out there just labeled our friends and MIT family members as security threats, and denied them access to our country? These are people with whom we live, study, and socialize. They are not terrorists — they are normal, fun, smart people who study at MIT and care about making the world a better place. And it's not just the people who are physically separated from us — Niki Mossafer Rahmati and Fadi Atieh — it's everyone on our campus who is from the affected countries, it's everyone on campus who is an international student, and it's frankly every Muslim student in our MIT family too. How can someone, with the stroke of a pen, deny our family members the right to an education, here where they belong? How can someone suggest that because of where you were born, or how you pray, that you do not belong here with us?

The thought of walking into an MIT classroom when the government has barred other members of our community from doing so is horrifying. These baseless restrictions should not have been imposed on anyone, not the students of MIT, nor the Syrian refugee who earlier today broke out in screaming tears when I got to be the one to tell him that he and his family might not be able to finally make it to Michigan in a month, despite the fact that he just got his refugee visa.

And it is here that I need to talk about normalization. At the end of the day, barely anyone in the American population actually knows a Muslim person. About one percent of the American population practices Islam. And out of Americans who do know a Muslim person, even fewer know individuals from the seven countries mentioned in the order. So, when Trump signs his order, he knows that not as many people are going to turn out as did for the protests that occurred after his election. He finds an obscure piece of a long law and twists its meaning to something different, to justify a ban on a specific group of people. And he makes the order general enough that when people complain about specifics (say, restrictions on Green Card holders), he can backtrack and make exceptions. And when he does, he can throw out new information that others can use to say how the protesters are wrong. And slowly, little by little, bit by bit, he makes the small exceptions that are needed to gradually reduce the number of angry people until they are insignificant. People get used to the idea of the executive order — it gets normalized. And what will we be left with? A travel ban on seven Muslim countries, which can be expanded to include others — and by the time hardly anyone is protesting the original order anymore, who will be left to object when it gets expanded to the rest?

We are one MIT family, one country, one world of many peoples, and every one of us must find the time and do our part to sustain this reality.

This travel ban is supposedly aimed at keeping Americans safe. But it does noth-

ing of the sort - Since 1975, no murders and very few attacks were committed by terrorists born in any of the restricted countries on United States soil. It is like building a wall with Mexico - it does not actually keep undocumented immigrants out, especially when the population of undocumented immigrants from Mexico has been declining since 2007. Rather, it serves to create a barrier between us and them, Americans and Mexicans, Americans and Muslims. It is the physical manifestation of the walls that people wish to use to divide us, based on lies and misinformation. I encourage you to check what Breitbart has to say about the protests they blame them on terrorists, and cite them as proof of how Muslims are tearing apart the country. They argue that Islamic societies create terrorists, although most terrorist attacks in America are perpetrated by Americans and an FBI report indicates that most terrorists are not Muslim. It is a method used to create division, to instill fear, and eventually, to normalize discrimination against our neighbors. We must never allow this to happen.

Remember your classmates that are physically separated from you — see the faces of Niki and Fadi, and pick up the phone every day until they come home.

We are one MIT family, one country, one world of many peoples, and every one of us must find the time and do our part to sustain this reality. We must publicly demonstrate our resolve and our determination to *make our family whole again*. All of our students must make it home, all of our students must feel accepted and valued, and all of our students must know that we will always fight for each other's right to exist and thrive at our institution.

Until that happens, we must march and take direct action that will contribute towards our peers coming home. We do so not only through marching, but also by picking up our phones, calling our local representatives, calling our federal representatives, and talking to anyone who will listen to our demands that our students will be allowed back here to MIT. Do not be distracted by temporary court injunctions; do not be distracted by the Trump administration's revisions of the order; instead, recall the faces of your fellow Muslim classmates and pick up the phone. If you are not sure how, resources exist to help you. The online version of this Tech article has a link, which includes necessary logistical information and sample script. Find your congressional representative online, call their office number, and relay to them your reaction to this ban. Remember your classmates that are physically separated from you – see the faces of Niki and Fadi, and pick up the phone every day until they come home. And once they're home, imagine this ever happening again, and remember the pain that you feel at the thought of our family being torn apart — and continue to march on streets and pick up the phone until the entire order is repealed.

Matthew Davis, a member of the Class of 2017, is the former President of the MIT Undergraduate Association.

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Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

TO REACH US

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017 THE TECH 5



Dave Johns as Dan, Hayley Squires as Katie, Briana Shann as Daisy, and Dylan McKiernan as Dylan in Ken Loach's I, Daniel Blake.

MOVIE REVIEW

Two lives intersect through empathy

Ken Loach and Paul Laverty present the film I, Daniel Blake

I, Daniel Blake

Directed by Ken Loach

Screenplay written by Paul Laverty

Starring Dave Johns, Hayley Squires, Dylan McKiernan, **Briana Shann, Sharon Percy**

Now Playing

By Ivy Li STAFF WRITER

The film I, Daniel Blake is a declaration. These words, spray-painted across the walls of a job center, capture the compelling story of 59-year-old carpenter Daniel Blake (Dave Johns) who is forced to fight for his welfare rights after a heart attack. Paralleling his struggles is the equally compelling story of single-mother Katie (Hayley Squires) and her two children, Daisy (Briana Shann) and Dylan (Dylan McKiernan): the family was evicted from hostel for the homeless, and live in poor housing conditions in Newcastle.

Despite this depressing premise, there is humor in their desperate situations and much-needed warmth in the interactions between the characters and the inherent good nature of our protagonist, Dan. Stubborn and proud, generous and empathetic, our titular hero holds the film together with his capacity for compassion.

Dan's relationship with Katie is founded on mutual empathy rather than on romance. They have both suffered setbacks in their own lives, yet they continue to struggle and make do with what they have. In this film, Dan's world is one he builds through his respect for other people and himself.

Each scene holds remarkable tenderness. With all the tragedy that these characters endure, the film would have been outright depressing if it weren't for the kindness of individuals and their small victories. Each small success is fleeting, but the happiness of living and sharing time with other people is what keeps the characters afloat.

Dan still has his flaws — his pride in taking care of himself leads to his reluctance to ask for help. We follow him through the film as he helps others generously, speaking out against injustice, and while he is just as entitled for help, he chooses to take action for his life in his own way, holding his moral dignity against the world.

For most of the film, Dan's character acts as a staunch anchor. While his shortcomings — such as the inability to use a computer — hinder him, his stubbornness and willpower pull through. Yet in a memorable shot, we see Dan's vulnerability as Katie's daughter, Daisy, peers through the door mail slot of Dan's apartment and asks, in an earnest, quiet voice, why they couldn't help him after he had helped them for so many things. He opens the door and the two embrace warmly.

For such a powerful story, the latter half falls short — devolving into contrived plot developments that feel cheap rather than organic. While the case against social welfare programs is a relevant and meaningful cause, a more nuanced approach is sacrificed in favor of this overt social message.

The film lost the wondrous, subtle touch that was found in the earlier half of the film. Early scenes of dialogue exchanges felt less like filmed scripts than living human beings sharing their lives with each other. Like Daniel's carved wooden fish dangling from the ceiling, these characters are hanging somewhere in the air for someone to appreciate. I wish I could have appreciated them much more than I did.

MOVIE REVIEW

Broken ties with fries on the side

The Founder tells the story of how a single salesman McBuilt a fast food empire

By Amy Fang

"McDonald's can be the new American church, and it ain't just open on Sundays, boys," declared *The Founder*'s Ray Kroc.

Yet another "based on a true story" drafilm. *The Founder* chronicles the story of McDonald's from a single diner into a national fast food corporation. The riveting, fast-paced film hit theaters on Jan 20.

This biographical film focuses on Ray Kroc (Michael Keaton), a hard-working salesman who specializes in selling milkshake makers. He and his wife lead a simple life, just making ends meet, but Kroc always wants more.

His life changes after he crosses paths with customers Maurice "Mac" McDonald (John Carroll Lynch) and Richard "Dick" McDonald (Nick Offerman), who are the owners of the McDonald's diner. McDonald's diner is known for their dedication to fast service and quality meals, illustrated through their pioneered Speedee Service System where families can eat in "thirty seconds, not thirty minutes." In the film, the McDonald's brothers perform immaculate quality checks on nearly every burger to assure that customers are always

Ray immediately sees potential to turn McDonald's into a restaurant chain, but the McDonald's brothers believe that doing so would go against the core values of their restaurant. However, after much discourse, the McDonald brothers finally allow Ray to franchise McDonald's, only under strict circumstances that any and all changes Ray wants have to go through the brothers first. Although Ray's capabilities to oversee new franchises are limited, he is enthusiastic to expand Mcdonald's and live his vision. The Founder documents Ray Kroc's journey as he successfully builds up his franchises to eventually acquire the entire McDonald's empire.

Surprisingly, what makes The Founder superb is its cinematography and unique director's choices. For example, the growing tension between Ray Kroc and Dick McDonald on the future of McDonald's is lightened extensively with both humor and wit. In a series of enraged telephone conversations, Ray is always the one hanging up on Dick although Ray is the employee. In one particularly heated discussion, Dick exclaims "You have a contract!" while Ray coolly responds, "Contracts are like hearts, they're made to be broken." Casting Nick Offerman, a well-loved actor best known for his deadpan style and dry humor on TV sitcom Parks and Recreation, as Dick was also no doubt a plus.

The soundtrack closely parallels the drama on screen, which has the effect of powerfully conveying feelings in more ways than one. Moments were made especially powerful with well-placed music,



The Founder

Directed by John Lee Hancock

Starring Michael Keaton, Nick Offerman, John **Carroll Lynch**

Rated PG-13

Now Playing

including when Ray asks for a divorce out of the blue, or when Ray realizes the secret to gaining more leverage over the McDonald's brothers with the help of his financial consultant, Harry J Sonneborn (B.J Novak). Variety in camera angles and lighting keep the film exciting and moving forward. With these methods, *The Founder* spends most of its screen time showing rather than telling.

The Founder does a magnificent job of mapping human complexity while simultaneously unwinding a complicated and long-winded, true story. If you are interested in uncovering the true story of McDonald's, this is the perfect picture for



Michael Keaton as Ray Kroc in The Founder.

6 The Tech





Thousands gathered at Copley Square on Sunday to protest President Donald J. Trump's recent executive order restricting immigration into the United States. The demonstration was organized by the Massachusetts chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations. Speaking during the protest were Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, and Representative Joseph Kennedy III. Several hundred MIT students gathered for a rally in Lobby 7 before joining the protest.

Copley Square Immigration Ban Protest





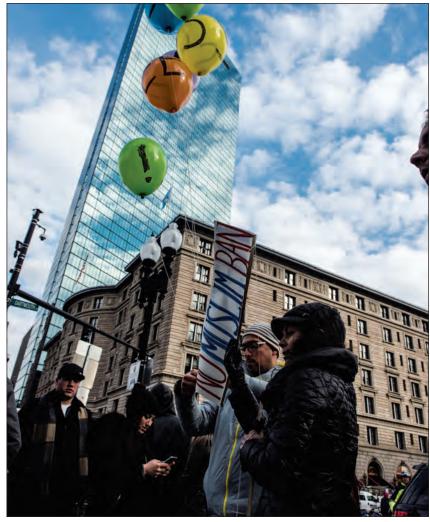


Thursday, February 2, 2017

The Tech 7









RESTAURANT REVIEW

Suvaai, offering rich rewards, demands a journey north

By Josh Cowls

Head up Mass Ave from campus and you'll pass mainstays like Clover and Flour, trendy vegetarian spots like Life Alive and Veggie Galaxy, and the chic eateries surrounding Harvard. But it's worth the effort to keep going. The best ramen (Sapporo), pho (Pho House), and bagels (Bagelsaurus) on this side of the Charles line the quiet stretch between Harvard and Porter Squares.

Head on a little further still and you'll reach Suvaai. It's an unassuming spot — keep your eyes open for the red lights strung up in the window, guiding you in like an airport runway — but your endeavors will be rewarded with interest. Specializing in South Indian and Sri Lankan dishes, Suvaai offers up sumptuous subcontinental soul food for a price that won't make your eyes water — even if its punchy curries might.

Don't let the plastic-wrapped menus and table-tops mislead — this is as far as

you can get from the rushed, impersonal experience common to glorified fast food joints in busier areas. Which is a good thing, because the novella-length menu deserves careful, unhurried study. Suvaai would suit solo diners and date nights perfectly well, but I'd recommend going in a larger group and coordinating your order: tackling the dosas, rottis, and larger curries will involve some serious teamwork.

So what's good? Just about everything, as far as I can tell. But across-the-board quality doesn't mean you shouldn't try dishes unique to southern India and Sri Lanka, which are harder to find elsewhere. Eschew the noodles and tikka masalas, then, and delve into regional specialities like the dosas — deceptively light rice and lentil pancakes enveloping perfectly spiced potatoes and onions — and the app-sized Tamil Nadu specialty Gobi 65: weaponized balls of deep-fried cauliflower, with the taste and texture of hot wings, only better, obviously. And don't forget to ask for a rotti kotthu: mercilessly moreish morsels of torn-up rot-

Suvaai

2378 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge

Tuesday - Sunday, 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.; 5:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

ti, sautéed with diced vegetables and eggs, served alongside split pea curry.

Some marginalia: I ate with a group of vegetarians, and the absence of meat and fish went completely unnoticed; the vegetarian options are both ubiquitous and a few dollars cheaper than their carnivorous equivalents. (And between the Gobi 65 and the paneer tikka, there are plenty of options that seem meatier than the real thing.) Also, the spice levels here are graded on a very different curve than what you might be used to: their "mild" is most people's plenty-hotenough, but they're happy to adjust the

heat of your entire order to suit. Either way, it never hurts to have a lassi on hand just in case, and Suvaai's are as good as they come — rounding off the meal with richness.

Suvaai pulls off a rare trick: introducing you to a distinct, authentic regional cuisine with dishes so instantly appealing you immediately realize that, while you might be trying them for the first time, it most certainly won't be the last. There's nothing stealthy or unhealthy going on here — just a faithfully reconstructed, perfectly executed menu in unpretentious surroundings. In short, it's worth the trek.

THEATER REVIEW

If you don't like it, it's your fault

The Nora Theatre Company at Central Square Theater presents Alan Ayckbourn's *Intimate Exchanges*

Intimate Exchanges

Written by Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Olivia D'Ambrosio

Central Square Theater

Running Feb. 1 – 11, 2017

By Mariam Dogar

STAFF WRITER

Nine different characters. Sixteen different possible life trajectories. Over 10 hours of theatrical content. All of this managed by a cast of two: Sarah Elizabeth Bedard and Jade Ziane, who play all female and male roles, respectively.

Intimate Exchanges by Alan Ayckbourn is hardly your average play; it is composed of eight plays that each have two different endings. This structure leads to an immersive environment for the audience: they get to decide the ultimate fate of the characters.

Intimate Exchanges takes place in a suburb of London. In the beginning of the play, the audience is introduced to Celia Teasdale, the frustrated wife of an alcoholic headmaster, and Sylvie Bell, the simple girl who works for her. The opening scene presents the first decision of the play: Celia can either have a cigarette or continue on with her spring cleaning. Depending on the version of Intimate Exchanges you see, Celia's decision will lead to different consequences, causing a ripple effect and resulting in a dramatically different play. In the version that I saw, Celia, after an internal struggle broadcast to the audience as she hovers over the cigarettes and looks around, finally chooses the cigarette. She begins smoking in her garden until the young, strong Lionel Hepplewick enters. Lionel is the school's groundsman, and he wishes to work on Celia's garden. The scene is laden with sexual innuendos, and Lionel and Celia begin a bit of a romance.

Celia is not the only character to face decisions. In fact, Lionel is the next character who has to make a difficult choice when he must decide to reject or to go out with Sylvie, the Teasdales' help. In the play that I watched, Lionel and Sylvie go out, which initiates Sylvie's character transformation after Lionel calls her "complacent." Sylvie asks the Teasdales to educate her. Mr. Teasdale gives her books and tutoring, while Mrs. Teasdale teaches her how to look and dress like a lady. Ultimately, this causes her to develop a will and certain passions of her own.

Personally, I think that the most unique and engaging part of *Intimate Exchanges* was the unfettered audience interaction. In a democratic process, we voted on the general categories for the ending. I played a role in determining Sylvie's final fate; therefore, I felt like I paid extra attention during the final scenes to see how my decision was affecting

Audience intervention has a certain power because the audience can navigate decisions free of social consequences. Even though some might think that this would enable us to make negative or random choices without fear of consequence, it actually turns out that most of us aspire to be heroes, removing fear or selfishness from the decisionmaking process in order to achieve the best possible ending.

Intimate Exchanges also explored the na-



Sarah Elizabeth Bedard as Celia Teasdale and Jade Ziane as Lionel Hepplewick in Intimate Exchanges.

ture of decision making; the characters in the play, which are very much similar to your average person, never really face a clear right or wrong. Instead, they weigh their choices subjectively, so their decisions are more nuanced and harder to make.

The production and design teams for *Intimate Exchanges* did a fantastic job of amplifying the intimate environment of the play. Even though there were at most only two actors on the stage, the set and environment always felt complete and engaging. The invested and involved audience sits close by as the characters go through relatable struggles; therefore, the play truly feels like a confidential exchange.

I really enjoyed the feminist undertones

and overall theme of *Intimate Exchanges*, which was a resistance to being defined by a presumption or first impression. Sylvie's progression throughout the play presented an interesting depiction of how humans can deal with circumstances out of their control and mold their own fate through their decisions.

In Director Olivia D'Ambrosio's words, the play causes you to pose questions about "personal agency, regret, hope, and fate; about the circumstances we are born into and how they shape us; about the impact made on one person by the intrusion and inclusion of other people, and about the notion of parallel lives." Her portrayal of *Intimate Exchanges* was an "extremely advanced level of pretend" that was captivating and thoughtful.

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THE TECH IS LOOKING FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS.

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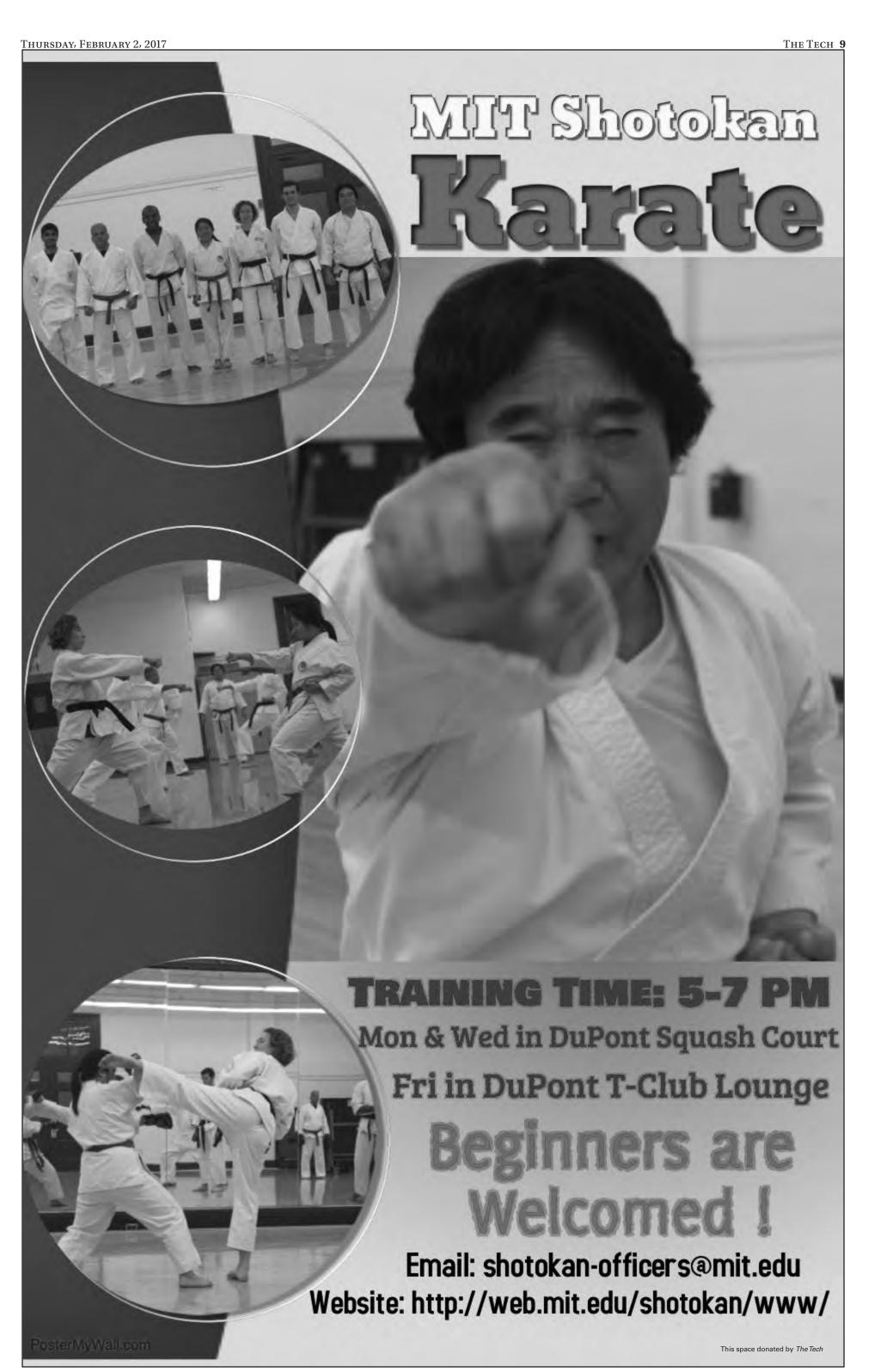
DO YOU ENJOY NOSING AROUND AND COLLECTING EVIDENCE?

IF SO, WE WANT YOU ON OUR TEAM!

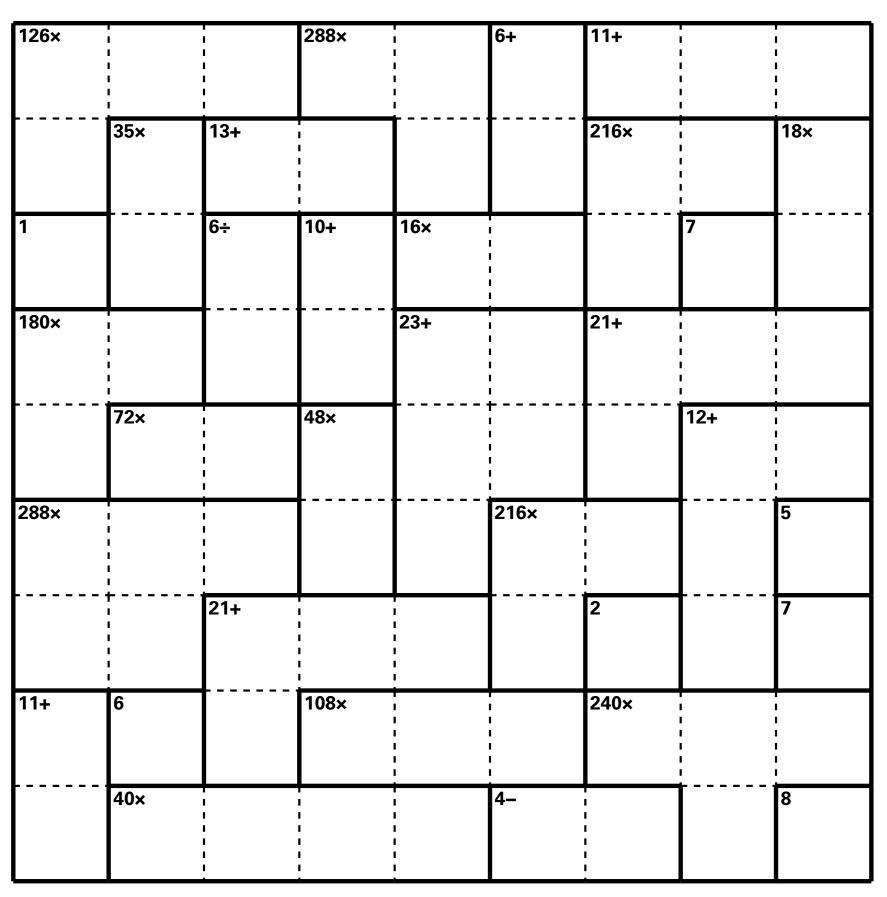
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The End of PNR



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Here's The Scoop by Billie Truitt

Solution, page 12

ACROSS 1 Knight's title 4 Otherwise

8 Lobster relative

12 Over 18 14 Knocks loudly

15 Extinct bird 16 Color variations

17 Luau instruments

18 Swindle

19 Vanilla/nut ice cream

22 USSR's CIA 23 Rebuke harshly

24 Emphatic agreement

26 Pampering treatment, for short

27 Assemble, as troops

29 Maple syrup source

32 Four-door car

34 Skiing surface

37 Radiate, as light

39 Puts in the mail

41 Impartial

42 Part of PTA: Abbr.

44 Ink spots

46 Crime lab evidence

47 Snug and warm

49 Clean air org.

51 "__ be the day!"

53 Song segments

56 DVR button

57 Vanilla/chocolate ice cream

61 Island near Maui

63 1,760 yards

64 More pleasant

65 Quick haircut 66 Get ready, briefly

67 Gets taller

68 Come to a halt

69 Glances at 70 __ sail (leave port)

DOWN

1 Christmas Eve aviator

2 "That makes sense"

3 Vends used goods

4 Go off like a volcano 5 Canoeing spot

6 Blueprint detail, for

7 Opinion pieces

short

8 DJ's collection

9 Almond/marshmallow ice cream

10 Old saying

11 Flops on stage

12 Wagering site: Abbr.

13 Count in a quartet 20 Sprints and marathons

21 Butterfly catchers

25 Egotist's top priority 27 Macho

28 Cancel out

29 View from the shore

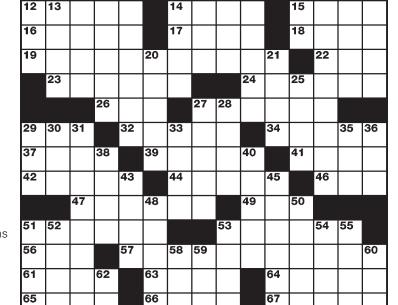
30 Mornings, for short

31 Green ice cream 33 Money owed

35 Brooch

36 Historical period 38 Tugboat sound

40 Turn the wheel 43 Newborn cow



45 Parts of pogo sticks

69

48 Losing streaks

50 Have high hopes

51 Jogs

68

52 Valentine decoration

53 Joe Biden and predecessors

54 Disney Florida theme park

55 Large quantity

70

58 Catastrophic

59 Great joy

60 Ambulance destinations:

Abbr. 62 Baseball arbiter Thursday, February 2, 2017

The Tech 11



DERTOUZOS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES 2016-2017

MIT COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LABORATORY

Frugal Innovations for a Developing World

Bill Thies, Senior Researcher, Microsoft Research India

The benefits of novel technologies are often out of reach for the poorest billion on the planet. Instead of making things faster, bigger, and more futuristic, can we make things radically cheaper, simpler, and more inclusive? In this talk, I will describe some of our successes, failures, and lessons learned in deploying such "frugal technologies" in India over the past eight years. Drawing on projects in health, education, and citizen reporting, I will synthesize our experiences into a set of recommendations for anyone seeking to have social impact via technology.



Bill Thies is a Senior Researcher at Microsoft Research India, where he has worked since 2008. His research focuses on building appropriate information and communication technologies that contribute to the socio-economic development of low-income communities, a field known as ICTD.

Previously, Bill earned his B.S., M.Eng., and Ph.D. degrees from MIT, where he worked on programming languages and compilers for multicore processors as well as microfluidic chips. His distinctions include the John C. Reynolds Doctoral Dissertation Award, a CHI Best Paper Award, and a 2016 MacArthur Fellowship.

Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 4:30pm, Stata Center, Kirsch Auditorium 32 Vassar Street, Cambridge, MA - MIT Bldg. 32-123

The Distinguished Lecture Series was renamed in memory of Michael Dertouzos, Director for the Lab for Computer Science from 1974 to 2001. A tradition since 1976, the series has featured some of the most influential thinkers in computer science, including Bill Gates, Steven Jobs, Donald Knuth, John McCarthy, and Mitchell Kapor.

For more information: www.csail.mit.edu

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017 THE TECH **12**



Liana Ilutzi of MIT drives towards the basket against Wesleyan. The Engineers won the game 69-54.

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RTSSPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS

Thomas Nelson of the MIT Engineers digs a ball on a serve from Wentworth. MIT won the game in 5 sets.

Solution to PNR

from page 11

7	2	3	9	8	5	1	4	6
3	7	8	5	4	1	6	9	2
1	5	6	3		8	4	7	9
5	9	1	7	6	3	8	2	4
4	8	9	6	5	2	7	1	3
6	1	2	8	7	4	9	3	5
8	3		1	9	6	2	5	7
2	6	7	4	3	9	5	8	1
9	4	5	2	1	7	3	6	8

Solution to Here's Scoop

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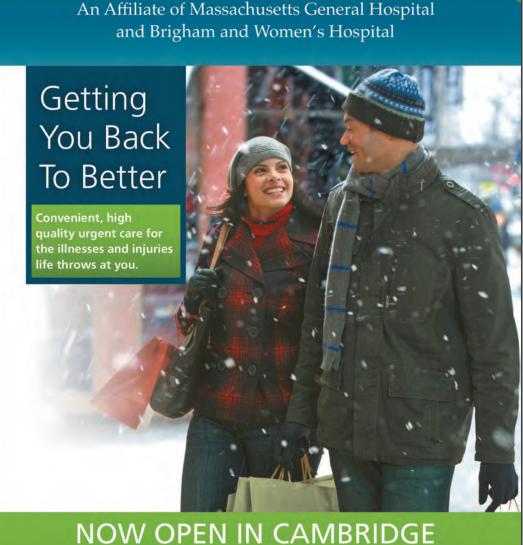
by Dr Randy Olson



plus free Darwin's birthday cake and tea MON, FEB 13TH | 7PM | 4-237

Also, join us for a group trip to the Harvard Museum of Natural History and Museum of Comparative Zoology SAT, FEB 18TH | 1PM - 5PM

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